

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR MASS GR TU US
SUBJ: GREEK REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TO GREECE AND TURKEY

REF: ATHENS 3751(DTG 251508Z APR 77

1. GREEKS ARE STILL VOICING TO US PRIVATELY DEEP CONCERN
OVER AND OPPOSITION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR INCREASED MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND EVENTUAL PASSAGE OF THE US-
TURKISH DCA. HOWEVER, IN THE GREEK MEDIA THE ISSUE HAS
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SUBSIDED CONSIDERABLY FROM THE HEADLINE TREATMENT
OF LATE LAST WEEK AND THE HEAVY COVERAGE OVER THE WEEKEND.

2. MUCH OF THE REPORTING ON THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE
CONTINUES TO DEAL WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE U.S. LIBERAL
OPPOSITION TO VIMA'S CORRESPONDENT STATHIS EFSTATHIADIS
WROTE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD PUSH FOR

CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE AID TO TURKEY AT LEAST TWN
DAYS BEFORE THE TURKISH ELECTIONS. PRO-GOVERNMENT(INDEPENDENT)
KATHIMERINI'S U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CLAIMED THE
TURKISH-AMERICANS WERE IN OPEN CONFLICT IN THE HALLS OF
THE CONGRESS WITH THE GREEK-AMERICANS AND THE GREEK-
ARMENIANS WHO APOSED THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS.
PRO-GOVERNMENT APOGEVMATINI, CITING SENATE SOURCES, RE-
PORTED PRESIDENT CARTER WAS BRINGING HEAVY PRESSURE ON
CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS TO HAVE THE MILITARY AID -- NO
THE DCA -- PASSED, BUT THAT BRADEMAS WAS FIRM IN HIS
OPPOSITION NEVERTHELESS.

3. ON APRIL 26 THE PRESS GAVE MODERATE ATTENTION
TO RELEVANT PASSAGES FROM THE ADDRESS THE PREVIOUS DAY BY
CONGRESSMAN GUS YATRON AT THE GYMNASIUM GROUND-BREAKING
CEREMONY AT THE DERE-PIERCE COLLEGE. AFTER A RELATIVELY
INNOCOUS SPEECH ON US-GREEK RELATIONS AND THE VIRTUES
OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, THE CONGRESSMAN HAD ENDED HIS
REMARKS BY VOICING DISAPPOINTMENT AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S
ACTION AND ANNOUNCING HIS INTENTION TO SPARE NO EFFORT IN
OPPOSING THE ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS
TURKEY COMPLIED WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW. THESE LATTER
SENTIMENTS FORMED THE BASIS FOR MOST OF THE STORIES
APRIL 26 ON THE ISSUE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. ON
APRIL 27 MUCH OF THE FOCUS WAS ON EXTRACTS FROM AN INTERVIEW
BY GEORGE MAVROS, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION UNION OF THE
DEMOCRATIC CENTER, APPEARING IN THE TURKISH NEWSPAPER
TURCUMAN. AMONG OTHER TOPICS, MAVROS SAID "MILITARY
AID BY THE U.S. TO A COUNTRY THAT HAS USED VIOLENCE
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AGAINST ANY OTHER COUNTRY" RUNS COUNTER NOT ONLY TO U.S.,
BUT ALSO TO INTERNATIONAL LAW. SUCH A POLICY, HE CHARGED,
WOULD CONVERT THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN INTO A POWDER KEG
WHICH COULD "BLOW UP THE REST OF THE WORLD."

4. FINALLY, THE AFTERNOON PRESS APRIL 27, REPORTING ON
WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A "BACKGROUND", STRESSED THAT
THE LONDON MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME
MINISTER CARAMANLIS WILL BE PARTICULARLY "TOUGH" AND
"DECISIVE" SINCE AMONG THE SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED WILL
BE U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY.

5. COMMENT: THE PROPOSALS TO INCREASE U.S. MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND TO APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE THE U.S.-
TURKISH DCA HAVE BEEN A JOLT TO GREEK PUBLIC OPINION
(PARTICULARLY THE MILITARY AID). HOWEVER, THE PUBLIC
REACTION HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT RESTRAINED IN COMPARISON TO THE
PERIOD LAST YEAR FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SIGNATURE
OF THE U.S.-TURKISH DCA. THERE ARE MANY FACTORS CONTRIBUT-

ING TO THIS CURRENT CLIMATE, INCLUDING THE ADVENT OF THE
CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHICH WAS OVERWHELMING WELCOMED
THROUGHOUT GREECE. THEN, TOO, THE GOG HAS REFRAINED FROM
MAKING THE PROPOSALS A PUBLIC ISSUE, LIMITING ITS
PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS TO TWO BRIEF CAREFULLY-WORDED
STATEMENTS (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS). KUBISCH

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